

First Class

COVID-19 Special – Edition 3

22 May 2020

Issue 72

Honesty

Respect

Happiness

Achievement

Appreciation

We continue to appreciate that all our families are well and continue to work at home under difficult circumstances. The good weather has helped and hopefully you've been taking advantage of this over the last wee while. We are also thankful for the teaching and non-teaching teams here and their positive approach to this new way of working.



Keyworker Hub at Kintore School

Every three weeks, the Kinellar Team manage and run the Keyworker Hub based at Kintore Primary. Obviously during these weeks, staff may perhaps be busy looking after the children so please be understanding if they take time to get back to you. The staff work in shifts 7am- 7pm 7 days. The Hub is for parents who have absolutely no other childcare option, as the safest option and advice is still to stay at home.

Learning and Teaching Arrangements

We appreciate the support you have given the pupils at home and understand how hard this has been for some of you.

I think you'll agree that the pupils have had a variety of assignments and it's tricky getting the balance, volume and frequency of work 'just right' for all the children across the school. As you'll know by now, these are set in Microsoft Teams. **Pupils are asked to submit most of their work using the assignment tabs.** This is important and ensures that teachers can keep track of pupil work, particularly in situations where pupils interact with more than one teacher.

If you or your pupil are finding any of this overwhelming, please get in contact with the class teacher in the first instance. We wish to support families in any way we can.

Quality Control and Variance

Understandably, just like in different classrooms around the school, there's a wide variety of teaching styles, strategies and learning activities. There's a high expectation from the SMT of all teachers (and indeed of themselves) but they are also offered professional autonomy to deliver the curriculum to suit their learners.

Please bear this in mind. Some children may have different learning experiences or the learning might be delivered in a different way. If you have anything to feedback about the learning your child is receiving, as always, we are happy to hear feedback in a constructive way. Sometimes our teachers have their own family commitments at home so may be online late in the evening or feedback on work at weekends.

Additionally, teachers are still becoming familiar with this new way of teaching and will have varying levels of confidence in terms of online chat, meetings and face to face interaction. The SMT are interfacing with classes on a daily basis and are ensuring that there's quality/frequent teaching and learning being offered and that pupils are engaging well with this.

Time and Pace

In a classroom, teachers are skilled at pacing lessons and will supplement, support or challenge learning as and when required. This is what they do best and the technical name for this is differentiation. We do appreciate that, at home, this can be difficult depending on work commitments, siblings, housework, general family life and enjoying the outdoors. Teachers also know within the classroom when to challenge and when to take

the pressure off a bit. It's so hard to do this in our current climate of working at home with parents as teachers. Please use your own judgement when you feel your child has reached their 'limit' for the day as the health and wellbeing of families is important.

It's been great to see all the excellent work being undertaken by families. We've all been on a steep learning curve (it's been hard) but we also see many happy learners and are delighted with the engagement of the learners.

Transitions

We are always looking ahead and much of the work that goes on behind the scenes to prepare for transitions that occur in Term 4 continues. This includes transition to Academy, transition from Nursery to P1 and from year group to year group. We will keep you updated with any information as and when we have it and we are working with staff at Kemnay/Inverurie Academies and Private Nurseries to make transitions as smooth and supportive as possible.

Nursery – P1 Transition will be predominately online and a Facebook group has been set up to support parents and learners this term.

School IT Devices

The majority of our devices are now allocated to families around Blackburn. Please take care of them. Once we are in the recovery phase of school closures, we will ask you to return these to a central location. They will have to be signed back in by an adult.

Reports

Staff have been working hard on these. Due to the changed circumstances, the issuing of these was delayed until the 21st and 22nd of May. Please check your inboxes. Reports will be emailed to the main parental contact for each child and will come directly from class teachers. Please take the time to provide feedback on your child's report using the Microsoft Forms link provided with the report.

Lendrick Muir

We realise that P7 parents will be keen to receive an update on this. Currently, the issue of refunds is being handled centrally by Aberdeenshire Council who are addressing this with the insurers at a local authority level. As you will appreciate we were not the only school to have a trip cancelled due to this viral outbreak and we appreciate your forbearance as the particulars are being

investigated. As soon as we have further information we will let you know.

Parent Council

KSPC continue to share some helpful links for families during this time. Please have a look at [KSPC Facebook page](#).

KSPC have taken the decision to donate the juice that was originally set aside for the Summer Disco to the Catalyst Vineyard Church – Inverurie who are currently supporting 40 families (97 individuals) locally via their foodbank.

Cooking our way out of the Lockdown Blues

The Catering service want to encourage children to get involved in the planning and preparation of meals at home.

They have provided some hints, tips and recipes to share with families across Aberdeenshire. The information sheets are accessible via the following weblink: [Hints, Tips & Recipes No. 1](#)

Opportunities in the community



**SHORT POETRY
COMPETITION FOR OUR
YOUNG WRITERS!**

- FOR AGES 5-11
- THE FINALIST OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE JUDGED BY JOHN MCKINNON, A RETIRED NURSE FROM ART.

£5 TO ENTER

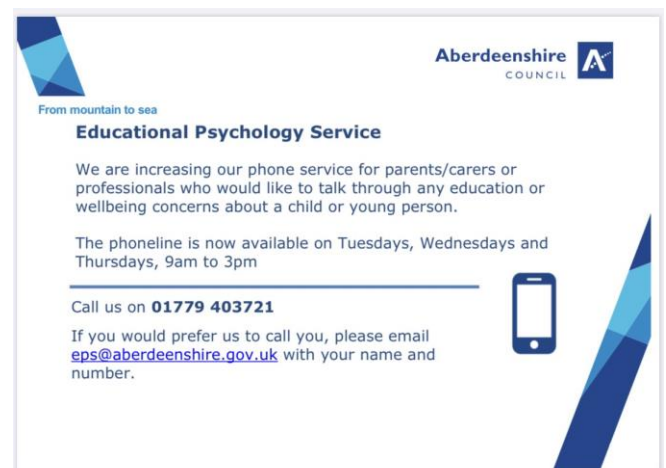
(CLOSING DATE 20TH OF JUNE)
TO ENTER EMAIL: FUNDRAISINGFORARCHIE@OUTLOOK.COM TO GET YOUR COMPETITION HANDBOOK.

THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON NATIONAL WRITING DAY ON THE 24TH JUNE AND WILL RECEIVE A WATERSTONES VOUCHER TO BUY A BOOK OF THEIR CHOICE!

THE ARCHIE FOUNDATION
MARKING THE DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL SICK CHILDREN



Support for Families



Aberdeenshire COUNCIL


Educational Psychology Service

We are increasing our phone service for parents/carers or professionals who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person.

The phonenumber is now available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 3pm

Call us on **01779 403721**

If you would prefer us to call you, please email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with your name and number.

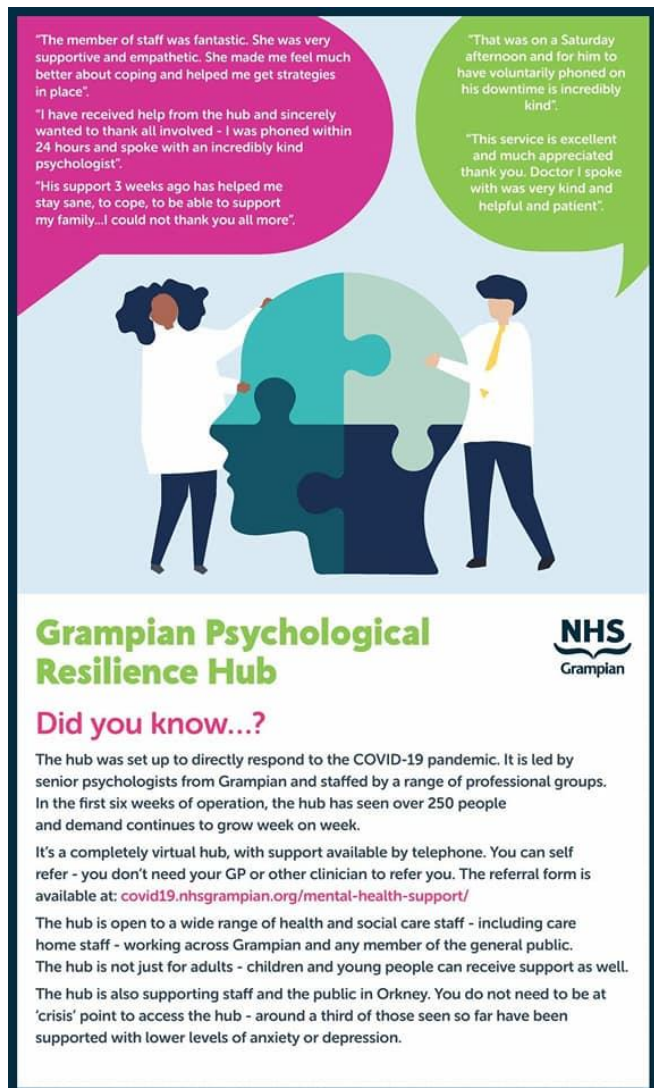


Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

CAMHS have a selection of COVID resources and podcasts, that may be of interest to families. These cover a variety of subjects.



<https://www.camhsgrampian.org/>



"The member of staff was fantastic. She was very supportive and empathetic. She made me feel much better about coping and helped me get strategies in place".


"I have received help from the hub and sincerely wanted to thank all involved - I was phoned within 24 hours and spoke with an incredibly kind psychologist".

"His support 3 weeks ago has helped me stay sane, to cope, to be able to support my family...I could not thank you all more".

"That was on a Saturday afternoon and for him to have voluntarily phoned on his downtime is incredibly kind".

"This service is excellent and much appreciated thank you. Doctor I spoke with was very kind and helpful and patient".

Grampian Psychological Resilience Hub



Did you know...?

The hub was set up to directly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is led by senior psychologists from Grampian and staffed by a range of professional groups. In the first six weeks of operation, the hub has seen over 250 people and demand continues to grow week on week.

It's a completely virtual hub, with support available by telephone. You can self refer - you don't need your GP or other clinician to refer you. The referral form is available at: covid19.nhsgrampian.org/mental-health-support/

The hub is open to a wide range of health and social care staff - including care home staff - working across Grampian and any member of the general public. The hub is not just for adults - children and young people can receive support as well.

The hub is also supporting staff and the public in Orkney. You do not need to be at 'crisis' point to access the hub - around a third of those seen so far have been supported with lower levels of anxiety or depression.